

## More Great News From The Capitol



- ★ Seniors asked us to restore the Department of Aging, which was merged into the Department of Social Services in 1993. We listened, and the Aging Department will be reinstated as a separate agency as of January 1, 2007 (PA 05-280).
- ★ ConnPACE benefits will be coordinated with the new federal Medicare Part D drug coverage so participants do not pay any more than the ConnPACE registration fee and a prescription co-payment, unless absolutely necessary. Participants must enroll in a Part D plan by January 1, 2006 (PA 05-280).
- ★ Asset limits will increase to \$28,530 and \$38,040 for singles and couples respectively on April 1, 2007 for seniors in the state-funded portion of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (PA 05-280).
- ★ The state's request that the transfer of assets be subject to a five-year look back is repealed. It will remain at the current three-year look back period (PA 05-280).
- ★ The Commission on Aging will be expanding from 11 to 17 voting members. Currently, the Governor selects the chair of the committee. This bill will allow the members of the committee to choose the chairperson instead. Finally, the bill moves the Commission from the Department of Social Services to the legislative branch for administrative purposes (PA 05-77).



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### **Bob Godfrey - Representing Danbury**

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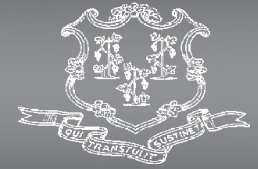
Seniors in  
Connecticut

- Keeping Seniors Mobile
- Prescription Drugs
- Non-Profit Funding
- New Changes





# *Seniors in Connecticut*



## **MAKING SENIORS MY TOP PRIORITY**

### *Non-Profit Providers Funding*



I am pleased to inform you that due to the latest Fiscal Year 2005 surplus estimate, community based non-profit providers will receive an additional \$15.8 million in funding in FY 2006. All providers will receive 4% cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) beginning July 1, 2005, instead of October 1, 2005. During budget negotiations, I successfully fought to include a budget provision that said, if the FY 05 surplus exceeded a certain amount, these private providers would receive a COLA for a full year, instead of three-quarters of a year. This additional funding will help five community-based non-profit providers in Danbury! These providers give vital, direct care to our low-income and frail populations. These organizations provide substance abuse treatment, mental health care, elderly service assistance, and support for families who care for very ill family members at home.

### *Help With Prescription Drugs Is On The Way!*

The legislature created a Pharmacy Outreach Program to provide information about reduced and free prescription drug programs. Administered by the pharmaceutical manufacturers, the program creates a statewide toll free number (1-888-477-2669) and website ([www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org)) to provide information on voluntary drug assistance programs and advice to residents on their eligibility for various programs (PA 05-269).



### *Bingo Prizes Increased*

A change in the law allows the maximum prize for bingo games designed for senior citizens to increase from \$5 to \$20. Organizations may still not charge more than \$1 for admission to recreational bingo (PA 05-11).

### *Keeping Seniors Mobile*



Beginning this year, the Department of Social Services will help fund a public-private partnership that provides an on-demand independent transportation network to serve Connecticut's seniors. A pilot program consisting of four towns with populations over 25,000 allows each town to receive up to \$25,000 to develop a financially self-sustaining, community-based transportation system through private donations and user fees. Volunteer and paid drivers must be utilized in a manner that closely follows a successful national model that provides independent transportation for seniors (PA 05-280).

### *New External Appeals*

New external appeals are now available for insured individuals, if you have been denied services or hospitalization and lost your appeal with managed care organizations or a health insurer. You can now file an appeal with the Insurance Commissioner once all internal appeals have been exhausted. The MCO or health insurer must now provide the external appeal forms to you (PA 05-94).

### *State Tax Exemption For Military Pensions*

Starting with the 2008 tax year, 50% of federally taxable military retirement pay will be exempt from the state income tax. The exemption applies to federal retirement pay to retired members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard (PA 05-251).



*I would like to hear from you . . . . 1-800-842-1902 at the Capitol*